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July 25, 2006

United States Department of Commerce
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Art Unit 3663

ref: Application No. 09/699,963

Response to Communication mailed 6/27/2006

Patent Examiner Tuan C To

Dear Mr. To,

Thank you for the telephone discussion of July 19, 2006.

I have read, as you suggested, the citations to which you refer in your last communication. It seems to me that some of these classifications were not around when I first submitted this patent application (11/05/1999), but I will trust your judgment on what to do next.

In reference to your remarks regarding election/restriction, you indicated that it would probably be wise to select election of claims 48-67 drawn to process.

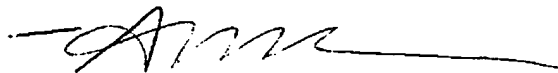
It is my understanding that the remainder of the claims (20-47), drawn to apparatus, can be protected later under a divisional practice election (?)

Therefore, to complete the requirement of your previous correspondence, I would like to elect Claims 48-67, drawn to a process, to be examined.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued help and assistance,

Kindest regards,



~ Angela Masson

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note: this correspondence has been FAXed to 571-273-8300 and express mailed